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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing below of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of Distriction . claims in the present application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of producing a molybdenumsilicide-type heating element containing essentially molybdenum silicide and alloys of that material, said method comprising the steps of: producing a material that contains substantially Mo(Si<sub>1-x</sub> Al<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> by mixing a molybdenum aluminum silicide Mo(Si<sub>1-v</sub>Al<sub>v</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with SiO<sub>2</sub>, wherein the SiO<sub>2</sub> is at least 98% pure and wherein wherein x lies in the range of 0.4 - 0.6; and forming a heating element from the produced material, wherein the heating element includes on its surface a protective layer consisting essentially of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> exide layer that does not peel from the surface of the heating element under thermal cycling of the heating element between room temperature and about 1500°C.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the SiO<sub>2</sub> present in the mixture is a silicate and does not affect molybdenum silicide crystal lattice symmetry.

Claim 3 (canceled)

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Claim 4 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, wherein x lies in the range of 0.45 - 0.55.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 1, including the step of partially substituting at least one of Re and W in the material  $Mo(Si_{1-x}Al_x)_2$  for molybdenum.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An electrical heating element that is substantially of the molybdenum silicide type and alloys of that material, said element comprising consisting essentially of the materials Mo(Si<sub>1-x</sub> Al<sub>x</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, wherein x lies in the range of 0.4 - 0.6; wherein SiO<sub>2</sub> having a purity of at least 98% is included in the material; and wherein the heating element includes on its surface a protective layer consisting essentially of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> exide layer that does not peel from the surface of the heating element under thermal cycling of the heating element between room temperature and about 1500°C.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): A heating element according to Claim 6, wherein x lies in the range of 0.45 - 0.55.

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Claim 9 (previously presented): A heating element according to Claim 6, wherein molybdenum in the material  $Mo(Si_{1-x}\ Al_x)_2$  is partially replaced with at least one of Re and W.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein the silicate is mullite.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein the silicate is sillimanite.